

culture, and Dr. William A. Cannon, physiologist, formerly of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; and of Mrs. Roxana S. Ferris who, as Assistant in the Dudley Herbarium, gives help to every student of the Pacific flora who has occasion to use the Dudley Herbarium, and whose published work on the local and more distant floras is well known. The present personnel is the product of the ideas and ideals of Dr. Campbell and the late Professor Dudley. One may conceive a group of botanists concentrating on one or two or a few lines and, assuming ability and industry, making a correspondingly impressive contribution to the science; and one may imagine another group composed of men of diverse interests but united by one common interest—the study of plants—who will touch human life at just so many more points, and who will impress their students and the rest of the world with the corresponding breadth and importance of botanical science, which their contributions will tend to keep plastic and growing.

What should be the ideals of a University group of botanists? Should they regard their function chiefly as that of contributors to knowledge as forming an academy of science or as the distributors of knowledge already and elsewhere acquired? And should they, any more than any other citizens of a commonwealth, indulge their own tastes without consideration of the relative values of different kinds of results in the cooperative society of which they are members, and from the success of which their own comfort and even existence depend?—GEO. J. PEIRCE.

#### ORDINANCES PROTECTING NATIVE PLANTS.

During the last year ordinances were passed in both San Diego and San Bernardino counties which prohibit the collecting of certain wild plants growing in those counties. In both ordinances nearly all species of cactus are named, as well as a number of species of herbaceous and shrubby plants. As a result of the activities of nurserymen and landscape gardeners of southern California who collect the cacti by truck-loads, some of the rarer species of cactus are bordering on extinction and other species which were once abundant are becoming rare. The San Diego ordinance was enacted after many of the plants of *Agave shawii*, growing at the type locality of the species had been carried off and many other plants had been left up-rooted to die. Among the desert shrubs that the ordinances aim to protect are *Ocotillo* (*Fouquieria splendens*), *Desert Holly* (*Atriplex hymenelytra*), and *Smoke Tree* (*Parosela spinosa*). The Samuel B. Parish Botanical Society of Riverside and San Bernardino has advocated the passage of an ordinance in Riverside County similar to the ordinances of San Diego and San Bernardino counties. Such an ordinance would protect the remarkable growth of cactus known as the Devil's Garden near the east entrance of the San Gorgonio

Pass in the northern Colorado Desert. Because of its accessible location and the number of persons preying on its cactus-resources, if it is not protected this natural cactus garden will soon be devoid of the unique charm it now possesses. It is sincerely hoped that after the passage of these ordinances they will not be forgotten and that persons detected breaking them will be punished as the law provides.—J. T. HOWELL, Nov., 1928.

## CALIFORNIA MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ELIZABETH E. MORSE

In order to become more familiar with the Fungi which occur in this state, especially with those which are destructive or beneficial, edible or poisonous, the California Mycological Society with headquarters in the Botany Building, University of California, Berkeley, has been formed. There are several branches in different parts of the state and there is an adviser in each branch. The interest of the schools and colleges has been enlisted, also that of lumbermen, orchardists, campers, hikers and tourists. Specimens are being sent to the mycological laboratory from many localities, and these are now being classified. The extent of the work may be realized when we consider the size of the state, and the fact that fungi occur in all latitudes and altitudes, and are both terrestrial and lignatile. The comparative paucity of literature on this subject increases the difficulties encountered. California species frequently do not fit descriptions of similar species met in other parts of the world, particularly from the fact that they often attain unaccountable dimensions. There are indications of the presence of some species not previously met, or, at least, not recorded.

One of the most important functions of the Mycological Society is to lend as much aid as possible to the building up of an herbarium of representative plants of the state. The Society's herbarium at the present time has comparatively small numbers of fungi in its collections, except for some special groups that have been more thoroughly studied. Such material is invaluable for purposes of reference and comparison. Those who realize the importance and value of this work, and who would like to render assistance are invited to send specimens, together with carefully prepared notes as to habitat, elevations, and conditions of growth, to the Mycological laboratory of Dr. Lee Bonar, who is technical adviser, or to Miss Elizabeth E. Morse, who is secretary, at the Botany Building, University Campus, Berkeley, California.

## THE CARNEGIE LABORATORY AT STANFORD

There was dedicated at Stanford University, on Aug. 27, 1929, a group of buildings constituting the central laboratory in the western